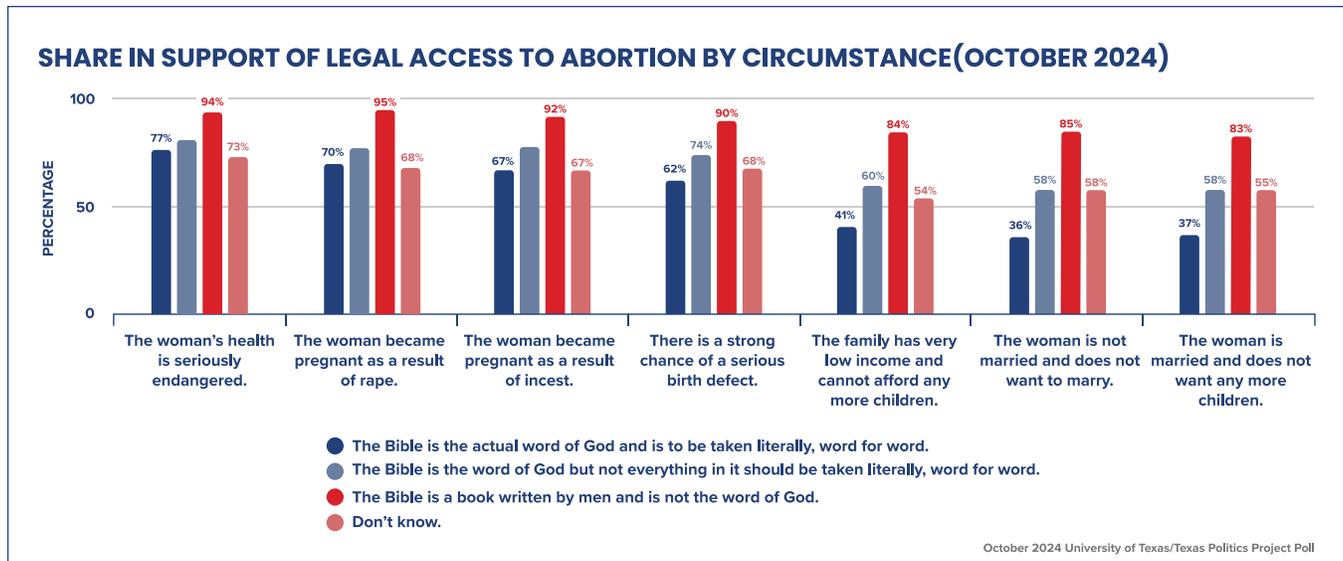


# Every Life is a Gift

## A Pro-Life Highschool Retreat

### Purpose

Abortion is a pervasive and emotionally charged issue. 59% of Americans personally know a post-abortive woman, making them more likely to support the practice.<sup>1</sup> The tragedy of abortion permeates even the pews, as a 2015 survey found 26% of post-abortive women attended church at least once a week at the time of their first abortion.<sup>2</sup> While Scripture testifies that humans bear the Imago Dei and that life should be protected, a 2024 poll highlights a lack of clarity on abortion's permissibility, even among those who believe the Bible is the word of God.<sup>3</sup>



Texan youth are particularly vulnerable to this confusion and often ill-equipped to engage when it matters most. For example, while Pregnancy Resource Centers are frequently located near college campuses, a survey conducted at a West Coast evangelical Christian university indicated that 94% of students were unaware of these life-affirming resources, while 57% of students would refer someone to Planned Parenthood in the event of an unplanned pregnancy.<sup>4</sup>

The church must disciple students to think biblically about abortion, and Texas Right to Life's High School Retreats provide an opportunity for such spiritual formation through a gospel-centered approach. Our goal is to educate students, put resources in their hands to serve their peers, and equip them to confidently articulate the truth in love. Our Retreats establish a strong foundation for why students should engage in one of the greatest cultural and spiritual battles of our time, especially as they gear up for college, where pro-abortion ideology is common and college-aged women make up a large demographic of annual abortions.<sup>5</sup>



## Customized Experience

Each retreat can be tailored to fit your group's needs—whether a full-day event or an evening gathering. TRTL can lead the entire experience or collaborate with your staff to create a meaningful and impactful program.

## Included Perks

Every event includes complimentary lunch or snacks for participants and free t-shirts as a keepsake of the day.

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- <sup>1</sup> "How the Issue of Abortion Touches Americans Personally," Pew Research Center, May 6, 2022. <https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2022/05/06/how-the-issue-of-abortion-touches-americans-personally/>.
  - <sup>2</sup> Study of Women who have had an Abortion and Their Views on Church, 2015, <http://research.lifeway.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Care-Net-Final-Quantitative-Report.pdf>.
  - <sup>3</sup> "Share in Support of Legal Access to Abortion by Circumstance (October 2024)," The Texas Politics Project, January 15, 2025, <https://texaspolitics.utexas.edu/set/share-support-legal-access-abortion-circumstance-october-2024#fundamentalism>.
  - <sup>4</sup> Dr. Newman, Marc. "Why We Must Speak Up: Answers to the Eight Most Common Objections." Essay, 40. Refocus Press, 2020.
  - <sup>5</sup> "Abortion Surveillance - United States, 2022." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, November 28, 2024. <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/73/ss/ss7307a1.htm>.

## Talks and Activities Offered

Texas Right to Life will collaborate with your team to develop an event schedule that will be the most impactful for your group. The following are various sessions we have provided in the past and we can collaborate to develop the right selection of talks and activities.

### **Your Life is a Gift**

This talk reminds us that every human life is sacred and entrusted to us by God. This talk challenges participants to see their own lives—and the lives of the vulnerable—as precious gifts, worthy of protection and love. Rooted in the call to holiness, it inspires a deeper commitment to defend life, live with gratitude, and witness to the dignity of every person.

### **The Bible is Pro-Life**

This talk explores the biblical foundations for the pro-life worldview, showing how Scripture consistently reveals God as the Author of life and the defender of the innocent. Participants will discover how both Old and New Testaments call us to cherish and protect every human person.

### **Service project for local pregnancy center**

To help students put pro-life beliefs into action, we will coordinate with a local pregnancy center to have a service component to the day. The activity could be writing encouraging notes to mothers in need or assembling blessing bags for new moms.

### **Beginning of Life Science and Fetal Development**

This presentation reveals the wonder of human life from conception onward. Using clear, accessible science and vivid imagery, it shows how every stage of development reflects the beauty and complexity of God's design for life.

### **Pro-Life 101**

Perfect for those new to the movement, this talk offers a clear overview of what it means to be pro-life. It covers the moral, scientific, and legal foundations of the issue and invites students to see the defense of life as an essential part of living their faith.

### **Men and the Pro-Life Movement**

This talk highlights the essential role of men in building a culture of life. It calls them to defend the dignity of women, protect the innocent, and lead with courage and selfless love.

### **Adoption and the Pro-Life Movement**

This talk highlights adoption as a powerful witness to the value of every life. It shares real stories of courage and love, showing how adoption reflects God's heart for family, redemption, and the self-giving love at the core of the pro-life mission.

### **Pro-Life Communication Skills**

This session equips participants with the tools to discuss life issues confidently and compassionately. Through practical examples and role-playing, students learn how to speak truth with love, listen well, and respond to tough questions with clarity and respect.

### **How you can help abortion minded women**

This session focuses on how to respond with compassion and hope to women facing unplanned pregnancies. Participants learn about practical resources, local support networks, and how to accompany mothers with love rather than judgment.

### **Personal testimony: How my unplanned pregnancy changed my life**

In this powerful and heartfelt talk, the speaker shares her personal journey through an unplanned pregnancy and how it transformed her life. Her story reveals the challenges, grace, and joy that comes from choosing life.

## Sample Schedule *Saturday Retreat*

- 9:00 AM.....Icebreaker intro game
- 9:15 AM .....**Talk 1 Your Life is a Gift**
- 9:45 AM.....Small Group Discussions
- 10:15 AM.....**Talk 2 Pro-Life 101**
- 11:00 AM.....Break
- 11:15 AM .....**Talk 3 Pro-Life Communication Skills**
- 12:00 PM.....Lunch
- 12:45 PM.....**Talk 4 Personal testimony: How my unplanned pregnancy changed my life**
- 1:30 PM.....Service Project: Making blankets for a pregnancy center
- 2:15 PM .....**Talk 5 Adoption and the Pro-Life Movement**
- 3:00 PM.....Small Group Discussions
- 3:30 PM.....Dismissal

### Next Steps

If you are interested in hosting an Every Life is a Gift High School Retreat, then please reach out to Texas Right to Life's Education Director, Brittani Oglesbee, at

**[Boglesbee@texasrighttolife.com](mailto:Boglesbee@texasrighttolife.com)**.

